

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-83 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18-20, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41, 42, 44, 46-51, 56, 61, 64-67, 69, 70, 73, 74, 76 and 78-80 are amended and claims 81-83 are added. The amendments are, for the most part, except as noted below, to correct obvious inconsistencies in antecedent basis and have no bearing on the scope of the claims.

Claim 35 is amended to better format the claim and to use language consistent with paragraph [0125] on page 25 of the specification. Claim 42 is amended to use the same language as used in claim 31 and claim 48 is amended to properly depend from claim 47, which provides the antecedent basis for the guide wall found in line 2. Claims 50 and 51 are amended to change "filter" to --wall-- as there is no filter in claim 31, but there is a wall, thereby correcting antecedent basis.

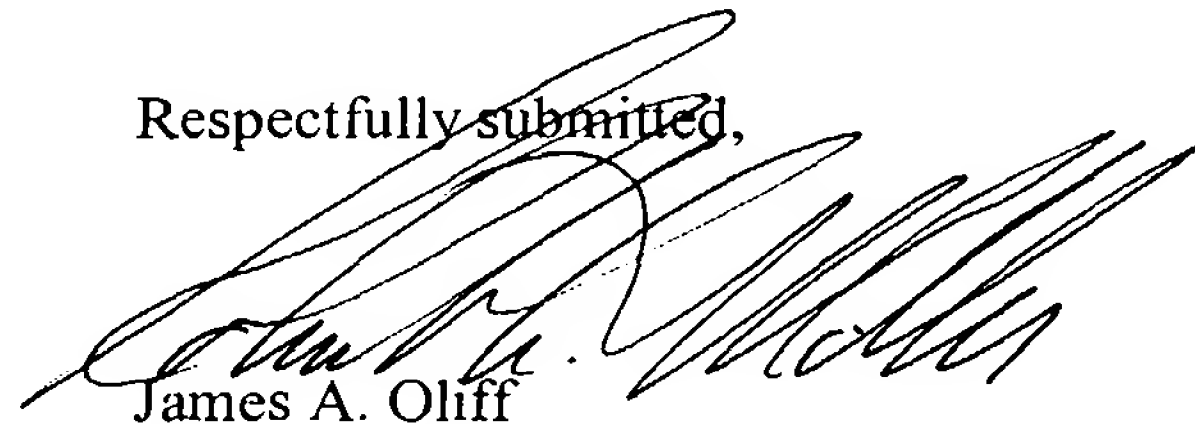
Claims 61 and 65 are also amended, in addition to addressing arguable antecedent basis issues, to delete the phrase "the purging operation" as such is unnecessary to the claim and does not have direct and clear antecedent basis. Claim 69 is amended to add descriptive language that provides antecedent basis for "the third chamber" in the next to last line of the claim. Claim 73 is amended to add that each air chamber is divided into a first chamber and a second chamber by a wall member to provide antecedent basis for claims 74 and 75 depending therefrom. Further, claims 73, 76 and 80 are amended to delete, respectively, the phrases "from the at least one ink nozzle of each print head"; "from the at least one ink nozzle of each print head"; and "from the ink nozzle". The removed material makes up the subject matter of new claims 81-83.

None of the amendments affect the Statement of Reasons for Allowability found with the Notice of Allowance and Fees Due and, thus, it is submitted that they will require no substantial examination and do not require further consideration to gain their entry. In the

Reasons for Allowance provided with the Notice of Allowance, it is stated that the primary reason of allowance of claims 73-79 includes "the air stored in the air chambers is discharged when the purge device generates an ink flow that goes over the wall member." Although such a feature is found in claim 73, and claims 74 and 75 depending therefrom, it does not occur in claims 76-79. Claims 76 and 78, the independent claims have the feature that "the purge device generates an ink flow that goes faster than an ink flow generated when the print heads perform printing". However, such a feature is among the reasons for allowance of claim 80, and thus, Applicants submit that claims 76-79 are allowable.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Robert A. Miller  
Registration No. 32,771

JAO:RAM/kap

Date: October 17, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--

*Courtesy Copy*